



# ***CITY COUNCIL***

## ***Meeting Agenda***

### ***REGULAR MEETING VIRTUAL MEETING***

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021  
at the conclusion of the COW Meeting***

*The Regular Meetings of City Council are filmed and can be viewed LIVE while the meeting is taking place via the attached Zoom link and dial-in phone number, on Facebook and on BCTV MAC Channel 99 or at your convenience at <https://www.readingpa.gov/content/city-council-video>.*

*Due to COVID-19, the public is prohibited from physically attending the meeting. In person attendance is permitted in the Penn Room in City Hall – use the 8<sup>th</sup> Street doors. To attend the meeting via our virtual app, please log-in using the link or the dial-in phone number below. Please see the Public Comment Instructions on Page 2.*

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

<https://readingpa.zoom.us/j/87213368874?pwd=TWVhRmJNMlZNVm5TjJHSjIjESFRLUT09>

Passcode: 383443

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,87213368874#,,,,\*383443# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,87213368874#,,,,\*383443# US (Chicago)

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 720 707 2699 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 872 1336 8874

Passcode: 383443

## **1. OPENING MATTERS**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INVOCATION:** Pastor Felipe Fana, Iglesia Misionera La Senda

### **C. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

### **D. ROLL CALL**

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** There was an executive session conducted after the

August 30<sup>th</sup> COW

## **2. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Commendation** – Touch is Essential art installation honoring essential workers during the pandemic, accepted by Bruce Becker

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA MATTERS:**

*Due to COVID-19 also known as the Coronavirus the public speaking requirements have been modified. Comments posted in Zoom Chat and on Facebook are not considered public comment and a response may not occur.*

Public Comment Instructions:

- To comment at a Regular Business Meeting, citizens can register by calling or emailing the City Clerk's Office by noon on the day of the regular meeting. Instructions to access the virtual meeting app or dial-in will be provided upon registration. Call 610-655-6205 or e-mail [council@readingpa.gov](mailto:council@readingpa.gov)
- Public comment for Regular Business meetings will also be accepted in writing by 4pm on the day of the meeting through an e-mail to [council@readingpa.gov](mailto:council@readingpa.gov). The message must clearly be marked as Public Comment. The comment received in writing will be read into the record at the Regular Meeting.
- Those wishing to provide in-person comment at a Regular Meeting in the Penn Room must register with the City Clerk no later than 4 pm on the day of the meeting by calling 610-655-6204 or emailing [council@readingpa.gov](mailto:council@readingpa.gov). The procedure to register to comment by signing a registration sheet before the start of the regular meeting will be suspended until the meetings are fully opened with everyone gathering in Council Chambers.
- Public speaking rules adopted by Council allow those speaking on agenda matters to speak for 5 minutes and 3 minutes for non-agenda matters.

*All remarks must be directed to Council as a body and not to any individual Council member or public or elected official in attendance. Any comment that is personally offensive or impertinent will not be read into the record. Comments on agenda matters are limited to 5 minutes in length and comments on non-agenda matters are limited to 3 minutes in length.*

## **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

**A. AGENDA:** Meeting of September 13, 2021

**B. MINUTES:** August 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting, and approving the summations of discussion from the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup> COW meetings and the September 7<sup>th</sup> Nomination Committee meeting

## **5. Consent Agenda Legislation**

*The Consent Agenda is designed to provide efficient approval of non-controversial legislation that does*

*not require discussion/debate by giving approval via acclimation when the meeting agenda is approved. The President of Council will call Council's attention to the list of Consent Agenda legislation at the meeting before action is taken, which allows Council to remove a piece of legislation for separate consideration.*

**A. Resolution** – authorizing the flying of the POW/MIA flag over City buildings or facilities where possible

**B. Resolution** – authorizing the purchase of IT firewall maintenance renewal for a 3 year term from COSTARS Vendor IntegraOne in the amount of \$150,564.51.

**C. Award of Contract** – to Stryker Medical, Chicago, IL (a COSTARS Vendor) in the amount of \$1,082,040.00 pending the transfer of funds for the purchase of EMS Equipment consisting of Heart Monitor/Defibrillators, Automatic External Defibrillators, Automatic Chest Compression Devices for the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and its partnering EMS and Fire Agencies in the Regional Assistance to Firefighter Grant.

**D. Resolution** – authorizing conditional offers of employment to the following Probationary Paramedic to be effective September 16, 2021:

- Abigail Rogers
- Benjamin Schearer
- Nicole McClintock

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Written report attached.

## **7. REPORT FROM OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR**

Written report attached.

## **8. REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS**

## **9. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Bill 63-2021** – authorizing a referendum question on the 2022 Primary Election Ballot - Shall Section 907 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be eliminated as it is in violation of State Statute 53 Pa. C.S. § 2962(b) which does not allow a Charter to place taxation limitations on the governing body, apart from State Act 511

**B. Bill 64-2021** – authorizing the transfer of \$32,000 in grant funding from the PA EMS Provider Foundation/Highmark into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund Budget for

the replacement/purchase of stair chairs for the department's ambulances ***Introduced at the August 23 regular meeting***

## **10. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

**A. Bill No 65** – Authorizing the transfer of \$45,000 within the 2021 Department of Public Works, Utilities Division budget from 55-07-48-4216 Contracted Services to 55-07-48-4101 Power & Light to cover storm related Electrical costs for the rest of the year

**B. Bill No. 66** – vacating and removing from the topographical survey of the City a portion of the city right-of-way for SR 3422, known as “Penn Street,” and authorizing the execution of a deed transferring the vacated portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street to Reading Area Community College ***Advertised on 9-20, 27 and Oct 4***

**C. Bill No.** – authorizing a budget transfer for legal services rendered to the Charter Board in the amount of \$30,000 from the Law, Special Counsel, Legal Services

**D. Bill No.** – authorizing the amendment of the CIP Budget by providing \$248,578 in funding for the cost of the fire system upgrades at the Main Library building. To be paid by Public Works Public Property budget line item

**E. Bill No.** – authorizing the transfer of \$1,033,992.26 within the Agency Fund from Contracted Services to Grants and Gifts for the purchase of EMS equipment using \$983,672.73 in FEMA grant funding

**F. Bill No.** – authorizing the appropriation of \$3M in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Berks County Convention Center Authority (BCCCF) for the Santander Arena and the Performing Arts Center to assist with them to recover from the financial losses due to the closure of the facilities due to the pandemic

**G. Bill No.** – authorizing the amendment of the CIP budget to transfer funds in the amount of \$46425 to cover the cost of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Gym HVAC

**H. Bill No.** – increasing the base salary of the Deputy Chief of Police, Javier Ortiz, to \$101,757.04 per annum.

## **11. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution** – appointing Jerry Jones to the Blighted Property Review Committee

**B. Resolution** – appointing Rebecca Noviello to the Environmental Advisory Council

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

*Please see public speaking rules on second page*

## **13. COUNCIL BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

## **14. COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **Monday, September 20**

*Nominations & Appointments Committee – 4 pm*

*Committee of the Whole – 5 pm*

### **Tuesday, September 21**

*Conditional Use Hearings – 5 pm*

- 234 N 6<sup>th</sup> – Road to Damascus – temporary women’s shelter
- 238 N 6<sup>th</sup> – Road to Damascus – boarding house

### **Wednesday, September 22**

*Priorities Summit – 5 pm - Hybrid*

### **Monday, September 27**

*Committee of the Whole – 5 pm*

*Regular Meeting – at the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole meeting*

### **Oct 19 or 21**

*Conditional Use Hearing – 730 McKnight - group home – 5 pm*

## **16. ADJOURN**

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Hybrid Regular Meeting**  
**August 23, 2021**  
**At the conclusion of the COW Meeting**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Due to COVID-19, the City changed the meeting format to a hybrid format **with** Council attending in-person at times and others attending virtually. In addition to providing the public with the ability to observe the Council meetings virtually and via telephone and viewed live on the BCTV MAC Channel 99 and Facebook Live, the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meetings will be shown in the Penn Room, in the first floor of City Hall – access the Penn Room using the doors on North 8<sup>th</sup> Street only. Public comment at regular meetings can occur virtually, via telephone or in-person in the Penn Room through Zoom. The meeting agendas are posted on the City's website 3 days prior to the meeting. All agendas include the Zoom meeting information (LINK and Dial In) to easily 'click and join' the meeting. Access meeting agendas at: [https://www.readingpa.gov/council\\_minutes\\_agendas](https://www.readingpa.gov/council_minutes_agendas). The invocation was given by Pastor Dave Klase, Door of Hope Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

There were no executive sessions held during or after the COW on August 16<sup>th</sup>; however, there was an executive session held about two matters of litigation at the close of the August 23<sup>rd</sup> COW.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Council President Waltman – electronically  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2 – electronically  
Councilor Ventura, District 3 – in person  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4 – in person  
Councilor Reed, District 5 – electronically  
Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz, District 6 – electronically  
Solicitor F. Lachat – electronically  
City Clerk L. Kelleher – in person  
Auditor M. Rodriguez – electronically  
Managing Director A. Amoros - electronically

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Council issued a commendation recognizing Café Esperanza and National Everybody Eats Week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman announced that there is one citizen registered to address Council virtually this evening.

**Curt VanBuskirk, of Garnet Valley**, was connected virtually but he could not unmute himself.

Council President Waltman stated that he will check in with Mr. VanBuskirk during various points in the meeting to see if he was able to cure the problem.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Waltman called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, and the minutes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, the meeting summaries from the COWs held on August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> and the meeting summary from the August 16<sup>th</sup> Nominations meeting.

**The minutes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, the summations of discussion listed and the agenda were approved by acclimation.**

## **Consent Agenda**

*The Consent Agenda is designed to provide efficient approval of non-controversial legislation that does not require discussion/debate by giving approval via acclimation when the meeting agenda is approved. The President of Council will call Council's attention to the list of Consent Agenda legislation at the meeting before action is taken, which allows Council to remove a piece of legislation for separate consideration.*

**A. Resolution 79-2021** – authorizing the purchase of five hundred-fifty (550) licenses under Microsoft 365 for Information Technology Division from COSTARS Vendor SCW – Southern Computer Warehouse, in the amount of \$69,025.00.

**B. Resolution 80-2021** – authorizing the purchase and installation of the hybrid technology in Council Chambers to Haverford Systems Inc (HSI) at the cost of \$73,242.86

**C. Award of Contract** – for Liquid Fuels Tax Paving Project to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Leesport, PA in the amount of \$2,398,935.70 for the 2021 removal and replacement of roadway pavement and related items such as subbase repairs, base repairs, leveling, drainage improvements, pavement markings, and loop detection systems for the following City-owned roads:

- S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street (Willow Street to Cherry Street)
- N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street (Court Street to Elm Street)
- S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Franklin Street to Neversink Street)

- Church Street (Woodward Street to Court Street)
- Court Street (Bridge Approach over NFS RR to 10<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Riverfront Drive (S. Front Street to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street)
- River Road (SR12 to Muhlenberg Twp Line)
- Riverdale Roads (Elkton Street, Denton Street, Colston Street, W. Berton Street, Fulton Street, Lowrie Street, Durham Street, High Street, Downing Street & Berkley Street)
- Pike Street and Birch Street (SW Corner)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The managing director read the report provided in writing and attached to the agenda, in summary:

### **FINANCE:**

- The Finance Department's IT Division will roll out new help desk software on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The rollout will begin with ticketing and then move onto other features such as approval streamlining, new user requests, software install and purchases. The software will also allow for improved network monitoring with down sites and allow for better performance monitoring.
- The Finance Department's Citizen Service Center set up 1,638 solid waste City service accounts as part of the transition from private haulers. This information was submitted to the Reading Area Water Authority for placement on September bills, which will be the first charge property owners will see due to the change.

### **FIRE:**

- The Fire Department received notification of the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award on August 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a regional grant totaling \$983,672.73, where the City's portion is 47% of this total. The award will go towards EMS equipment for the RFD, five other local EMS agencies, and two other fire companies.
- The RFD Non-Fire Paramedic position's testing process has yielded three candidates. Once the list is certified, the City will begin the hiring process with an anticipated start date of September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION:**

- As of August 13<sup>th</sup>, HRC has:
  - 1007 total rent and utility assistance applications were received (an addition of 15 applications since last reported).
    - 977 applications for rental assistance
      - 637 applicants were facing eviction
      - 252 applicants were not actively facing eviction
      - 89 applicants resided outside of the City but within the County.
    - 29 applications for utility assistance

### **LIBRARY:**

- The Reading Public Library wishes to thank the Fire Marshal's office for providing KN95 masks to all employees who have been working diligently to ensure that all safety protocols are being followed with patrons and members of the public.



- The RPL is pleased to announce that it raised more than \$12,000 during its Celebrity Bartender fundraiser event that took place on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department's National Night Out, which took place on the 500 block of Penn Street on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, was very successful. A special thank you to all City Departments, employees, outside agencies, vendors, and others who made this event a great success.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- The Public Works Streets Division filled 65 potholes during the month of July.
- PW crews conducted an assessment of streetlights that were not functioning. Responsible parties were then notified so repairs could be completed. As a reminder, Met-Ed is responsible for lights on wooden poles and the City is responsible for lights on metal poles.
- Public Works is providing the following project updates:
  - 2021 Line Painting Contract was awarded to A-1 Traffic Control, and work is expected to begin as soon as contracts are fully executed.
  - New curbs have been installed around four islands on East Wyomissing Boulevard in the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward as part of the pedestrian and bikeway project.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> and Court Fire Station will have a new AC system installed.
  - The McKnight and Spring Fire Station will soon have a new fire/life safety electric generator constructed, as the contract was recently awarded

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz inquired about the repair and replacement of the streetlights and the timeline after a problem is reported. The managing director stated that this process is heavily monitored and he promised to provide a report by the end of the week.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Auditor highlighted the report attached to the agenda and distributed electronically. In summary:

### **Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue - Update as of July 31, 2021**

For the month of July of the current year, the City's revenue is \$752,234.50, and as of July 31, 2021, the revenue of \$4,874,331.43 has been recorded; and up to now this line item has exceeded its budget target by \$174,331.43. Also, 1,490 transactions for Real Estate Transfer Tax have been completed of which 1,251 transactions were taxable and 239 were not taxable. And thus far, the City's revenue is \$1,191,399.64 for properties sold for more than half a million threshold.

### **Business Privilege Tax and Business Privilege Tax Prior as of July 31, 2021**

For the current fiscal year, the City budgeted \$1,466,400.00 for Business Privilege Tax and as of July 31, 2021, the City's revenue recorded is \$1,609,401.99. Although \$624,500.00 less in revenue was budgeted in 2021 compared to 2020 budget, YTD, the City's recorded about \$49,495.00 more in revenue YTD in

2021, compared to YTD in 2020. And up to this date, this line item has exceeded its budget target by \$143,001.99.

Council President Waltman noted the impact the EIT and Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue have on the City budget annually. It noted that some complain heavily about the Real Estate Transfer Tax and while many elected officials wish that percentage could be reduced, that revenue stream has allowed City Council to hold the line on other tax increases. He noted that that is a tax you pay once and it has not slowed real estate transactions.

Council President Waltman checked in with Mr. VanBuskirk; however, Mr. VanBuskirk was still having technical issues. The City Clerk advised Mr. VanBuskirk to use the phone number on the invitation to connect through the telephone.

#### **REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS.**

None

### **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Bill 62-2021** – authorizing the transfer of \$10,000 from Reading Beautification to The PW Sustainability & Solid Waste General Plant Supplies to provide funds for cleanup/graffiti supplies for city clean-ups ***Introduced at the August 9 regular meeting***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 62-2021.**

Council President Waltman explained that Reading Beautification Inc. decided to disband and this budget amendment will move funding for clean-ups into the Solid Waste budget.

**The motion to enact Bill No 62-2021 was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Ventura, Waltman, President – 6**  
**Nays: None – 0**

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz read the following ordinances into the record:

**A. Ordinance** – authorizing a referendum question on the 2022 Primary Election Ballot to eliminate Section 907 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be eliminated as it is in

violation of State Statute 53 Pa. C.S. § 2962(b) which does not allow a Charter to place taxation limitations on the governing body, apart from State Act 511

**B. Ordinance** – authorizing the transfer of \$32,000 in grant funding from the PA EMS Provider Foundation/Highmark into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund Budget for the replacement/purchase of stair chairs for the department’s ambulances.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 81-2021** – reappointing James Schlegel to the Stadium Commission

**B. Resolution 82-2021** – reappointing Stacy Taylor to the Human Relations Commission

**C. Resolution 83-2021** – appointing Maria Delgado to the Housing Authority

**D. Resolution 84-2021** – reappointing Michael Kautter to the Fire / Building Code Board of Appeals

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolutions 81-84- 2021.**

Councilor Marmarou noted the skills of those being appointed and reappointed and the benefit that will bring to the boards.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the value of interviewing those being reappointed as it allows Council to check in on the direction of each board.

**The motion to adopt Resolutions 81-84-2021 was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Ventura, Waltman,  
President – 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

Council President Waltman stated that Mr. VanBuskirk has connected to the meeting via telephone. Councilor Reed reviewed the Public Comment rules.

**Curt VanBuskirk, of Garnet Valley,** stated that the complaints he previously filed about various vehicles have been addressed; however, the property maintenance issues remain unresolved, including some with abandoned vehicles. He stated that he delivered photos to the

City Clerk's office (the photos were electronically distributed to Council and screen shared during the meeting). He inquired why the City chooses to ignore these major violations. He suggested that Council increase the property maintenance fines to make them more punitive.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Reed thanked Mr. VanBuskirk for sharing these issues with Council and the administration. She reminded him that City Council is the legislative body and the administration is charged with the power to enforce City laws. She asked the administration to address the problems Mr. VanBuskirk outlined.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Council is the legislative body that enacts law and increases fines; however, the administration is to provide enforcement. She agreed with the need for more emphasis on enforcement to address the chronic property maintenance issues across the City.

The managing director stated that these continued property maintenance issues are frustrating. He stated that these issues are discussed at each morning briefing meeting. He suggested that the staffing levels in Property Maintenance need to be increased.

Councilor Reed noted the League of Women Voters event in City Park near Memorial Grove this Saturday. She stated that the Reading Pride event held yesterday was a great success.

Council President Waltman agreed with the positivity of the annual Reading Pride event, noting the great diversity within Reading.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described the Duryea Hill Climb that took place during the past weekend.

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz thanked Reading Pride for organizing this annual event. She announced the family fun day sponsored by Life Church at 621 Centre Ave. and the upcoming Honey Harvest Party at the DoubleTree on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

*Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*

Drafted by City Solicitor's Office  
Sponsored by/Referred by Mayor's Office  
Introduced on September 13, 2021

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF READING AUTHORIZING THE FLYING OF THE  
PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION FLAG OVER CITY BUILDINGS OR  
FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Flag is a symbol of our nation's commitment to bring our POWs and MIAs home to American soil and the POW/MIA Flag is recognized by an act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the POW/MIA flag is the only flag, with the exception for the American flag, that has flown continuously over the Capitol Rotunda; and

WHEREAS, the POW/MIA flag reminds people of those still unaccounted for and our national commitment to not rest until every soldier is home.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reading, County of Berks, Pennsylvania hereby authorize the flying of the POW/MIA flag over all City buildings or facilities where an American flag is flown and where the flag pole allows for an additional flag.

DULY ADOPTED as a Resolution this \_\_\_\_\_, September, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Drafted By: Finance  
Referred by: Jamar Kelly  
Introduced on: 9/13/2021  
Advertised on:

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ 2021

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

Authorizing the purchase of firewall maintenance renewal [3 year term] for the Finance Department, Information Technology Division from COSTARS Vendor IntegraOne in the amount of \$150,564.51.

Adopted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk



# AGENDA MEMO

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**TO:**

City Council

**FROM:**

Fire Chief William I. Stoudt, Jr.

**PREPARED BY:**

Fire Chief William I. Stoudt, Jr.

**MEETING DATE:**

September 13, 2021

**AGENDA MEMO DATE:**

September 2, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Council's approval for the purchase of EMS Equipment in accordance with the Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) that was awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The recommendation is for Council to award the contract pending transfer of funds for the purchase of EMS Equipment consisting of Heart Monitor/Defibrillators, Automatic External Defibrillators, Automatic Chest Compression Devices for the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and its partnering EMS and Fire Agencies in the Regional Assistance to Firefighter Grant to Stryker Medical. The contract would be in the amount of \$1,082,040.00 to Stryker Medical, PO Box 93308, Chicago, IL 60673-3308. Stryker Medical is a PA COSTARS Vendor and the contract is reflective of the COSTARS pricing.

**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of the project is for the replacement of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services aging Heart Monitor/Defibrillators that are on the ambulances and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) that are on the Fire Apparatus along with the purchase of much needed Automatic Chest Compression devices, which the Department does not process. The Department with the approval of the Administration applied for and was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant that will fund 90% of the project with the Department and partnering agencies required to pay the matching 10%.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT**

None as addressed in the Agenda Memo and Ordinance for the transfer of funds within the Agency Fund Budget. \$1,033,992.00 will be received from both FEMA (\$983,672.73) and the partnering agencies (\$50,319.53). The remaining Department of Fire and Rescue Services matching portion of \$48,047.74 was included and approved as part of the 2021 Capital Improvement Budget.

#### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Approval of the project as part of the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Formal action by Council is required to approve the contract for the purchase of the EMS Equipment for the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and its partnering EMS and Fire Agencies.

#### RECOMMENDED BY:

The Fire Chief

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Approve/deny the recommendation for the purchase of EMS Equipment to Stryker Medical, PO Box 93308, Chicago, IL 60673-3308





# AGENDA MEMO

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**TO:**

City Council

**FROM:**

Fire Chief William I. Stoudt, Jr.

**PREPARED BY:**

Fire Chief William I. Stoudt, Jr.

**MEETING DATE:**

September 13, 2021

**AGENDA MEMO DATE:**

September 2, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Authorize the Hiring of 3 Paramedics

### RECOMMENDATION

The Mayor and Fire Chief recommend the hiring of the following Civil Service Testing Candidates: **For the position of Paramedic:**

Abigail Rogers

Benjamin Schearer

Nicole McClintock

### BACKGROUND

There are current vacancies as a result of retirements and promotions. The above named candidates completed the Civil Service process by taking and passing the written, physical ability and oral examinations for the position of Paramedic.

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

These funded positions have become vacant due to retirements or promotion and are part of the current year's budget, in addition, these hiring's will lessen the departments need to fill current vacancies with overtime.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None

### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Council to take action to approve a resolution to authorize the above names candidates to the positions listed.

### RECOMMENDED BY

The Mayor and Fire Chief recommend approval.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

Approve/deny the resolution authorizing the hiring of the named individuals to the positions listed.

Drafted by	City Clerk
Sponsored by/Referred by	Fire Chief
Introduced on	September 13, 2021
Advertised on	N/A

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ 2021

### THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Authorizing conditional offer of employment to the following Probationary Paramedic to be effective September 16, 2021;

#### **For the position of Paramedic/Firefighter:**

Abigail Rogers  
Benjamin Schearer  
Nicole McClintock

The department's offer of employment is conditional upon successful completion of the required training.

**Adopted by Council** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

---

Jeffrey Waltman  
President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher CMC City Clerk



## Administrative Report Mayor Eddie Moran

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Abraham Amorós, Managing Director  
**PREPARED BY:** Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant  
**MEETING DATE:** September 13, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** September 8, 2021

---

### FROM THE MAYOR:

- Mayor Eddie Moran filmed a promotional video for United Way on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The video will be part of the United Way's kick-off event.
- On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mayor Moran attended the Reading Police Department's National Night Out on the 500 block of Penn Street and the Hampden Height's community event held at College Manor Swimming Pool
- Mayor Moran hosted a press conference announcing the \$ \$3,999,382 grant awarded to the City to identify and implement best practices for improving health literacy to enhance COVID-19 vaccination and other mitigation practices among underserved populations.

Over the next two years, the City will work with Penn State College of Medicine, Reading Area Community College, and Latino Connection to develop a health

literacy plan to increase the availability, acceptability, and use of COVID-19 public health information and services by racial and ethnic minority populations. The projects will also focus on other demographics considered vulnerable for not receiving and using COVID-19 public health information

- On August 4<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Moran attended the Reading Recreation Commission's Summer Olympic games at Third and Spruce Recreation Center.
- Mayor Moran attended a press conference at the Gordon Hoodak Stadium on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was in celebration of the Olivet Boys and Girls Club's receipt of the Scotts® Field Refurbishment Program. The program awards modern, playable youth baseball and softball field refurbishments to four communities of need within the United States and is backed by the Scotts Company LLC (Scotts) and Major League Baseball.
- On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Moran hosted the Teen Writing Club at City Hall. The Mayor had lunch with the teens and provided a tour of the building.
- Mayor Moran attended the National Health Center Week celebration in City Park on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Berks Community Health Center hosted the event, and Mayor Moran provided a proclamation to the group recognizing the day and thanked them for all their efforts in our community.
- Mayor Moran participated in an interview on WEEU talk radio. The focus of the interview was an upcoming vaccination clinic event at Penn State St. Joseph's downtown clinic.
- On August 19<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Moran filmed a video message to support the Reading PRIDE celebration held on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Centre Park. In addition, the Mayor presented Reading PRIDE with a commendation for the excellent work they do in the community.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

The Community Development Department announced the City's grant award for \$3.3M to develop, administer, and implement a successful Lead Base Paint Hazard Reduction Program. The program will remediate 150 residential dwellings throughout three (3) years.

- The CD Department announced the City was awarded the State Department of Health's WalkWorks grant of \$20K. The money will go towards developing an active transportation plan that will address street connectivity, sidewalk and trail infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, and public transit.
- The CD Department began working on the Quality of Life program with HOPE Rescue Mission volunteers on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers are assisting with trash and weed removal and any additional debris discarded on sidewalks. Public Works provided volunteers tools, trash bags, and PPE. In addition, Property Maintenance Inspectors are present and educating property owners about the Quality of Life program and the need to maintain their property and neighborhoods clean.
- The CD Director and Property Maintenance Department met with residents on the 1200 block of Oley Street to address unkempt properties in the area. Public Works assisted in addressing some of the issues, and the CD Department agreed to monthly meetings to discuss progress in the neighborhood.

- The CD Department met with Stantec to discuss the finalized report for Downtowne Plus Strategic Plan. According to Stantec representatives, an executive narrative of the report will be provided to the Administration in September.

#### **FINANCE:**

- The Finance Department Information Technology Division continues to work on the transition to the Tyler (Munis) system. IT Staff has completed training on program features the City will be utilizing.
- The Finance Department IT Division is finalizing preparations for the organization's Office 365 rollout.
- The Finance Department IT successfully switched to the new Web Help desk system on August 31<sup>st</sup>. It is currently working on scanning assets into the new help desk software.
- The Finance Department's Citizen Service Center continues working on updating residential trash account data. The updated list of new trash accounts has been provided to the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) for billing purposes. The CSC expects a higher call and walk-in volume and asks the public to be patient as they assist residents with their questions regarding the billing changes.
- The Finance Department welcomes two new employees. Caroline Rodriguez will start as the Finance Department's Accounting Manager on September 7<sup>th</sup>. She is coming from the City Auditor's Office, where she served as the Auditor Coordinator. Also hired, Jessica Didow has been named the new Grants Coordinator, replacing Cindy DeGroote, who recently retired.

#### **FIRE:**

- The Fire Department will hold a September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service at the City Park Bandshell on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The RFD EMS did a great job responding to Hurricane Ida on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although the Schuylkill River was crested, the damage caused by it was minimal.

#### **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION:**

- As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, HRC has:
  - 1023 total rent and utility assistance applications were received (an addition of 31 applications since last reported).
    - 988 applications for rental assistance
      - 641 applicants were facing eviction
      - 257 applicants were not actively facing eviction
      - 91 applicants resided outside of the City but within the County.
    - 34 applications for utility assistance
  - HRC has assisted 300 families through this program, and \$1,064,762 has been spent.

#### **LIBRARY:**

- The Reading Public Library hosted the “Three Little Pigs” Berks Jazz Fest event featuring the Berks Opera and Yocum Institute of the Arts. Ninety people attended the event held on the front steps of the RPL’s Main Branch on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The RPL would like to thank the City for its work on the HVAC systems at all branches. For the first time in many years, all four library branches had air conditioning all summer.
- The RPL held its quarterly *For the Culture* book club at the Grill and Chill restaurant. The book club is a project a library clerk took the lead on. Book club participants read and discuss contemporary novels by authors of color.

#### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department’s multi-agency Operation Cease Fire continues its efforts to reduce gun violence in our community. The details have resulted in the seizure of twelve illegal firearms in the month of August.  
Non-fatal shootings continue to trend at 36% YTD, which is down in comparison to last year.
- The following supervisory changes will take effect on September 6<sup>th</sup>:
  - Community Response Coordinator – Lt. Lance Lillis
  - Police Academy Director – Lt. Brett Sneeringer
  - Quartermaster – Sgt. Lance Lonsinger
  - C Platoon Commander – Lt. Luz Shade
  - B Platoon Sergeant – Sgt. Jacob Stefani

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- Public Works completed the design and planned installation of ADA accessibility for a soccer field at 11<sup>th</sup> & Pike playground. The 11<sup>th</sup> & Pike fence construction project is also set to begin upon arrival of materials.
- The Public Works team completed the PA Department of Agriculture’s Pesticide Program.
- Public Works collaborated with the Reading School District to identify safety concerns with street accessibility. The collaboration will continue with RSD and PennDOT on a bid to correct the deficiencies identified.
- Public Works is set to begin line painting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a delay in beginning line painting this year due to a delay in paint delivery.
- Public Works Waste Water Treatment Plant kicked off the US Department of Energy’s Utility Savings Initiative on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This initiative is intended to reduce operating costs for local governments, freeing up resources for additional investments in energy efficiency and other priorities.
- Public Works crews will begin the Penn Street paving project for the 200 and 300 blocks of Penn Street on October 4<sup>th</sup>, with an expected timeline of three weeks to complete. There was a delay in starting this project due to a sinkhole that appeared and needed repair this summer.

- Public Works continues to oversee the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward bicycle/pedestrian trail construction project. Pavement restoration occurred at the third traffic island while preparations were being made for the concrete curb installation at the sixth traffic island.

## CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Monday, September 13, 2021

#### **User Fees Revenue – Update as of 7/31/2021**

As of June 30, 2021, an addition of \$19,000.00 has been allocated to the budget of the User Fees line item. Although this allocation initiated a budget increase from \$3,000,000.00 million to \$3,019,000.0, as of July 31, 2021, the City recorded \$1,926,206.58 or 64% in revenue for User Fees. As I reported on August 9, 2021, if this revenue continue this trend for the rest of this year, it could be expected that this revenue line item will exceed it budget target.

The Chart below explains the revenue collected YTD for the fiscal years of 2017 through 2021

	7/31/2021	12/31/2020	12/31/2019	12/31/2018	12/31/2017
<b>USER FEES-EMS</b>	1,926,206.58	2,405,142.53	3,333,157.10	2,808,204.15	2,912,755.52
<b>BUDGET</b>	3,019,000.00	3,196,000.00	3,095,000.00	2,900,000.00	2,900,000.00
<b>OVER/UNDER BUDGET</b>	<b>(1,092,793.42)</b>	<b>(790,857.47)</b>	<b>238,157.10</b>	<b>(91,795.85)</b>	<b>12,755.52</b>

#### **Business Privilege License – Update as of 8/31/2021**

For the current year \$280,000.00 was budgeted for Business Privilege Tax and as of August 31, 2021, \$241,964.34 has been recorder for revenue in this line item.

#### **Admission Fee/Tax – Update as of 8/31/2021**

As of 8/31/2021, the City recorded \$45,012.67 for the revenue line item of Admission Fee/Tax. This revenue was received from the Reading Phils/Energy Stadium with the exception of \$52.80 that was recorded from the Performance Arts Center for tickets sold of the RSO concert. Due to the loss of revenue in 2020, only \$200,000.00 was budgeted for Admission Fee/Tax for 2021.

Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: City Council  
Introduced on: August 23, 2021  
Advertised on: September 1, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER BY ELIMINATING CHARTER SECTION 907 APPROPRIATION AND REVENUE DUE TO THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON HOME RULE MUNICIPALITIES BY TITLE 53, CHAPTER 29 HOME RULE AND OPTIONAL PLAN GOVERNMENT, SUBCHAPTER E GENERAL POWERS AND LIMITATIONS OF HOME RULE CHARTER MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Charter Section 907 places limits on the ability of City Council to impose property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 53, Chapter 29 Home Rule and Optional Plan Government, Subchapter E General Powers and Limitations of Home Rule Charter Municipalities § 2962. Limitation on Municipal Powers restricts Charter limitations on the governing body's ability to impose taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, Home Rule Law states that a home rule municipality may exercise any powers and perform any function not denied by the State Constitution, by statute or by its Home Rule Charter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2022 primary election ballot:

**Home Rule Charter § 907. Appropriation and Revenue**



“Shall Section 907 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be eliminated as it is in violation of State Statute 53 Pa. C.S. § 2962(b) which does not allow a Charter to place taxation limitations on the governing body, apart from State Act 511.”

**Simple Explanation**

The current City Charter limits the governing body’s ability to increase real estate taxes if the revenue received will exceed 105% of the amount collected in the current fiscal year and the courts have determined that this section is in violation of State Statute 53 Pa. C.S. § 2962(b) which does not allow a Charter to place taxation limitations on the governing body.

**SECTION 2.** If approved by the electorate, Charter Section 907 shall be eliminated and the section number reserved.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Received by Mayor’s Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# AGENDA MEMO

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**TO:**

**FROM:**

City Council

**PREPARED BY:**

Fire Chief William Stoudt Jr.

**MEETING DATE:**

Fire Chief William Stoudt Jr.

**AGENDA MEMO DATE:**

September 13, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

September 8, 2021

AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF EMS EQUIPMENT AS A RESULT OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Chief requests the approval of the transfer of funds totaling \$1,033,992.26 within the Agency Fund Budget.

\$1,033,992.26 from Line 31-09-35-3554 to Line 31-09-35-4216

## BACKGROUND

The Department was the recipient of a Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling \$983,672.73 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for EMS Equipment. These funds will be received electronically into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund Budget. In addition, the 10% matching portion required of the other Agencies, totaling \$50,319.53, will be billed to the participating municipalities and then deposited into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

None to the overall Department budget as the transferred amount is from within the Agency Fund Budget. The grant is reimbursable with drawdowns occurring as invoices are received.

#### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

None

#### RECOMMENDED BY

The Fire Chief recommends approval.

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION

Approval of the transfer of the funds as listed.

Drafted by:	Fire Chief and Fire Administrative Officer
Sponsored/Referred by:	Fire Chief
Introduced on:	September 13, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AMENDING THE BILL NO. - THE 2021 AGENCY FUND BUDGET ORDINANCE - TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE AGENCY FUND BUDGET TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO PURCHASE EMS EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S AMBULANCES FOR WHICH AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) WAS RECEIVED FROM FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).**

**The Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:**

- Section One:** The 2021 Agency Fund Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by changing the ordinance to provide the funds needed for the purchase of EMS equipment for which the department was the recipient of a Regional AFG grant. The funds will be paid by a reallocation of funds within the Agency Fund Budget.
- Section Two:** The purchase of this equipment will be paid from the Agency Fund Contracted Services, Line Item (31-09-35-4216). The funds being transferred will result in an increase of \$1,033,992.26 to the Contracted Services Line Item (31-09-35-4216) and an increase of \$1,033,992.26 to the Agency Fund Grants and Gifts Line Item (31-09-35-3554). Note: this budget appropriation is not really a

transfer but it is a budget appropriation. We are increasing the budgetary revenue and expenditure by \$1,033,992.26.

**Section Three:** This Ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after adoption pursuant to Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

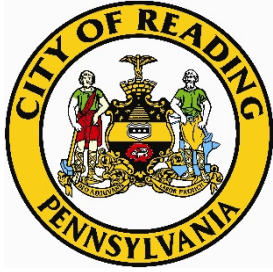
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Sent to Mayor _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor _____
Date: _____
Vetoed by Mayor: _____



# AGENDA MEMO

Public Works, Utilities Division, Sewers Dept.

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Robert Gensemer, Sewer Systems Superintendent  
**PREPARED BY:** Robert Gensemer, Sewer Systems Superintendent  
**MEETING DATE:** September 13, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** September 13, 2021

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO 55-07-48-4101, POWER & LIGHT ACCOUNT FROM 55-07-48-4216, CONTRACTED SERVICES ACCOUNT TO COVER STORM RELATED ELECTRICAL COSTS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

## RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to approve the transfer of funds for the total amount of \$45,000.00 from Contracted Services to Power & Light to cover costs for the rest of 2021.

## BACKGROUND

The current budgeted amount of \$26,000.00 would be enough of money to cover cost during a normal year, however, this year the North Reading Pump Station (NRPS) has received enough of rain flow during storms to require the large screw pumps to start up. This causes the electric cost to triple in any given month. Because of storms, current bills close to exceeding our \$26,000.00 budget.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

The Utilities Division has determined there are sufficient funds to cover the transfer without hindering Contracted Services payments for 2021.

## PREVIOUS ACTION

None

## SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Formal action by Council is required to approve the transfer of funds.

**RECOMMENDED BY**

Utilities Division Manager, Systems Superintendent

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Approve/Deny the recommendation for the transfer of funds.

Drafted by	Sewer Systems Superintendent
Sponsored by/Referred by	Acting PW Dir
Introduced on	September 13, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_ 2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

**AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFER WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS UTILITIES DIVISON**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

Section One: Authorizing the transfer of \$45,000 within the 2021 Department of Public Works, Utilities Division budget from 55-07-48-4216 Contracted Services to 55-07-48-4101 Power & Light to cover storm related Electrical costs for the rest of the year.

Section Two: This transfer will require a reduction of \$45,000 from 55-07-48-4226 Contracted Services and corresponding increase of \$45,000 to 55-07-48-4101 Power & Light.

Section Three: This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption in accordance with 219 and 221 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Reading.

ENACTED \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Received in Mayor's Office by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: J. London, Esq.  
Sponsored by: Reading Area Community College  
Introduced on: September 13, 2021  
Advertised on: Sept 20, 27 & Oct 4, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF READING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, VACATING AND REMOVING FROM THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE CITY OF READING, A PORTION OF THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR SR 3422, KNOWN AS "PENN STREET," AS PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE DESCRIPTION AND PLAN ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A," AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DEED AS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B" TRANSFERRING THE VACATED PORTION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PENN STREET TO READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

WHEREAS, Penn Street is a public street located within the City of Reading; and

WHEREAS, Reading Area Community College ("RACC") is a non-profit educational institution, with its facility located in an area bordered by Penn Street, South Second Street, South Front Street, and Spruce Street in the City of Reading; and

WHEREAS, RACC has instituted a renovation and beautification project, including a gateway project with improved signage, stairs, pedestrian path, and planters to improve the appearance and walkability of the RACC campus and surrounding neighborhood;

WHEREAS, as a part of this project, areas of the City right-of-way for Penn Street, which are exclusively on the property of RACC, and which are currently maintained by RACC, should be controlled by RACC in order to ensure continued maintenance and safety of the improved areas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of RACC is desirous of having the City of Reading vacate said portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street; and

WHEREAS, contemporaneously with the consideration of this Ordinance the Board of Trustees of RACC are petitioning the City Council of the City of Reading to Vacate the portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street described herein; and

WHEREAS, RACC and the City of Reading are the sole property owners adjacent to the portion of Penn Street desired to be vacated; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street petitioned to be vacated is shown on the aerial photograph titled "Location Exhibit" prepared by Bogia Engineering Inc., Plan Number 2019-101, together with a legal description, attached hereto, made a part hereof and marked as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, upon vacation of said portion of Penn Street, the vacated property is to be deeded to RACC; and

WHEREAS, RACC agrees to reserve easements for the perpetual operation and maintenance of the existing public and private utilities that occupy that portion of the proposed vacated property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 12915 entitled "Power to Open and Alter Streets" of the Third Class City Code, 11 Pa.C.S. §12915, the Council of the City of Reading ("Council"), may, by Ordinance, with or without Petition vacate a street or portion thereof; and

WHEREAS, per Section 12918 entitled "Petition to Opening" of the Third Class City Code, 11 Pa.C.S. §12918, the Council of the City of Reading ("Council"), upon Petition by the sole owner of property abutting the proposed street to be vacated, may, by Ordinance, vacate the street described in said Petition; and

WHEREAS, City of Reading City Council complied with requirements for notice for enactment of an Ordinance to vacate a street or portion thereof set forth in Section 12919 entitled "Notice of Petition" of the Third Class City Code, 11 Pa.C.S. §12919; and

WHEREAS, upon review of said Petition, the City of Reading Planning Commission and Council believes that the vacation of a portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street is in the interest of the residents of the City of Reading.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ENACTED and ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 12915, *et seq.* of the Third Class City Code, found at 11 Pa. C.S.A. §12915, *et seq.*, it is hereby determined that the City of Reading shall vacate that portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street located as shown and described on Exhibit "A", attached hereto.

SECTION 2. A prior notice of intent to adopt said Ordinance was given to the property owners whose land abuts or adjoins the streets proposed to be vacated in the form of at least ten (10) days' written notice; public notice was provided to the citizens of the City of Reading by



public notice appearing in the Reading Eagle newspaper once a week for three consecutive weeks before the date of the public hearing regarding the adoption of said Ordinance; the hearing was held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, prior to adoption; and a copy of said Ordinance, together with the draft or survey of that portion of the street to be vacated showing the location and width thereof, shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court of Berks County, Pennsylvania, after passage of the within Ordinance.

SECTION 3. From the effective date of this Ordinance, the City of Reading shall have no further liability or responsibility with respect to the maintenance of that portion of said right-of-way of Penn Street , as identified and described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto, and said portion of said street shall be and is hereby vacated.

SECTION 4. The easements for the perpetual operation and maintenance of the existing public and private utilities that occupy that portion of the proposed vacated property shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute a deed in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit "B" transferring the vacated portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street as shown on Exhibit "A" to the Board of Trustees of Reading Area Community College.

SECTION 6. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to take such further action as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. The official Topographical Map for the City of Reading shall be revised to include the vacation of the portion of the right-of-way of Penn Street as depicted and described in Exhibit "A"

SECTION 8 The Director of the Department of Public Works and/or the Interim Director of the Department of Public Works shall be authorized and directed to enter and record the above-described changes in the Topographical Survey Book of Streets in the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 9. Inconsistent Ordinances Repealed. All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed in so far that same affects this Ordinance.

SECTION 10. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any section, sentence, clause or provision hereof shall be held to be illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction such decision of the court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses or provisions of the Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the City of Reading that this Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, or provision had not been included herein.

SECTION 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption in accordance with Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

ENACTED and ORDAINED as an Ordinance of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL OF CITY OF READING  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:

Joan E. London, Esquire  
Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation  
2640 Westview Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
(610) 670-2552

Return to:

Joan E. London, Esquire  
Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation  
2640 Westview Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
(610) 670-2552

Premises: Penn Street, between South Front Street and South Second Street  
City of Reading, Reading, PA

## QUIT CLAIM DEED

**THIS INDENTURE, MADE THE** \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One (2021)

**Between** CITY OF READING, a Pennsylvania Third Class City (hereinafter "Grantor"),

A N D

READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, a Pennsylvania Community College, created by and existing pursuant to P.L. 1132 No. 484, Act of August 24, 1963, known as the Community College Act of 1963, 35 P.S. Section 1541, et seq., as amended (the "Act") (hereinafter "Grantee"),

**Witnesseth,** That the said Grantor for and in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 lawful money of the United States of America, to well and truly paid by the said Grantee, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has remised, released and quit-claimed, and by these presents does remise, release and quit-claim unto the said Grantee, and to its heirs and assigns forever, that portion of the Grantor's right-of-way for Penn Street (SR 3422), in the area hereinafter described:

**ALL THAT CERTAIN** tract or parcel of land, being the legal right-of-way of State Route 3422 (80' wide), also known as Penn Street, situated in the City of Reading, County of Berks, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being more fully bounded and described as follows:

**BEGINNING** at the intersection of State Route 3422 (Penn Street) and State Route 2006, also known as Second Street (80' wide);

**THENCE** extending along the westerly right-of-way line of Second Street in a southeasterly direction on a line bearing South One degree, Forty-nine minutes, Forty-seven seconds East (S 01°49'47"E), a distance of One hundred Feet and Seventy-eight hundredths of one foot (100.78'), to a point of curvature;

**THENCE** leaving the westerly right-of-way line of Second Street and extending along, Lands now or formerly Reading Area Community College the following Two (2) courses, viz:

1. In a northwesterly direction on a curve to the left having a radius of One hundred Thirty-three feet and One tenth of one foot (133.10'), an arc length of Sixty-six feet and Thirteen hundredths of one foot (66.13'), a chord bearing of North Eighteen Degrees, Fourteen minutes, Twenty-four seconds West (N 18°14'24"W), a chord length of Sixty-five feet and Forty-five hundredths of one foot (65.45') to a point;

2. In a southwesterly direction on a line bearing South Eighty-eight degrees, Eighteen minutes, Thirty-seven seconds West (S 88°18'37"W), a distance of Three hundred Eighty-six feet and Thirty-two hundredths of one foot (386.32'), to a point;

**THENCE** extending along the easterly right-of-way line of South Front Street (Variable Width), in a northwesterly direction on a line bearing North One Degree, Nine minutes, Nine seconds West (N 01°09'09" W), a distance of Sixty feet (60.00'), to a point on the southerly right-of-way line of Penn Street (80' Wide);

**THENCE**, extending along the southerly right-of-way line of Penn Street (80' Wide) the following Three (3) courses, viz:

1. In a northeasterly direction on a line bearing North Eighty-eight degrees, Eighteen minutes, Thirty-seven seconds East (N 88°18'37' E), a distance of Three hundred Forty-five feet and Sixty-seven hundredths of one foot (345.67'), to a point;

2. In a northwesterly direction on a line bearing North Two degrees, Thirty-four minutes, Two seconds West (N 01°34'02" W), a distance of Six feet and Six-tenths of one foot (6.60'), to a point of curvature;

3. In a southeasterly direction on a curve to the right having a radius of Seventy feet and Eighty-four hundredths of one foot (70.84'), an arc length of Sixty-seven feet and Seventy-seven hundredths of one foot (67.77'), a chord bearing of South Sixty-five degrees, Thirty-eight minutes, Fifty-five seconds East (S 65° 38' 55" E), a chord length of Sixty-five feet and Twenty-two hundredths of one foot (65.22'), to a point, the **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

**CONTAINING IN AREA** Zero Acres and Fifty-six hundredths of one acre (0.56 AC) of land.

**Together** with all and singular, the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversions, remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof: **AND** also, all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said Grantor, of, in, or to the above-described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances.

**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** all and singular the above-mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said Grantee, its heirs and assigns forever.

*In witness whereof*, the said Grantor to these presents hereunto sets its hand and seal the day and year first above written.

**Signed, Sealed and Delivered**

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

CITY OF READING

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)



# AGENDA MEMO

## CHARTER BOARD

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Shelly Smith, Deputy City Clerk  
**PREPARED BY:** Shelly Smith, Deputy City Clerk  
**MEETING DATE:** September 13, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** August 27, 2021  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** Authorize the Transfer of Funds for the Charter Board

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Charter Board requests a budget transfer to pay for legal services rendered to the Board. Authorizing the total transfer of \$30,000 from the Law, Special Counsel, Legal Services line item (01-12-25-4224-000) to the Charter Board line item (01-17-91-4777-000)

### **BACKGROUND**

The Charter Board has expended their allocation of \$50,000 for 2021 due to multiple Charter complaints that are pending through the hearing process. The Board is also managing the former Mayor's appeal of complaint findings. The Board requests additional funding of \$30,000 to pay for legal services rendered for existing Charter complaints and appeals through the end of 2021.

### **BUDGETARY IMPACT**

These transfers will reduce the Special Counsel, Legal Services line item.

### **PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

None.

### **SUBSEQUENT ACTION**

Council approval of this ordinance to authorize the transfer of funds.

### **RECOMMENDED BY**

Finance Director, Solicitor, Charter Board

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Approve the ordinance authorizing the transfer of funds as listed.

Drafted by: Deputy City Clerk

Referred by: Charter Board, Finance Director, Solicitor  
Introduced on: September 13, 2021  
Advertised on:

**BILL \_\_\_\_ -2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE 2021  
GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR THE CHARTER BOARD

**THE CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Authorizing the total transfer of \$30,000 from Law, Special Counsel, Legal Services line item (01-12-25-4224-000) to the Charter Board line item (01-17-91-4777-000)

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



# AGENDA MEMO

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

**TO:**

City Council

**FROM:**

Jamar Kelly, Finance Director

**PREPARED BY:**

Jamar Kelly

**MEETING DATE:**

September 13, 2021

**AGENDA MEMO DATE:**

September 7, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

AMEND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND 2021 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE COST OF FIRE SYSTEM UPGRADES AT THE LIBRARY MAIN BLDG

## RECOMMENDATION

The Managing Director recommends the above changes in the Capital Fund budget, reflecting the funds needed to cover the cost of fire alarm system upgrades at the Reading Public Library.

## BACKGROUND

2020 CIP included funding for Main RPL Fire system upgrades. Council award contract at end of fiscal year with nothing budgeted for 2021. This transfer corrects that.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

The authorization of the budget transfer will not impact the budget, since funds are being allocated from an existing budgeted line item no longer needed per analysis of current spending trends.

## PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Council awarded \$248,578 contract to BSGI for Fire Alarm detection installation at end of 2020. It was after the 2021 budget had been approved so an appropriation for this project was not included.

## SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Council to take action to approve an ordinance for the authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$248,578 to cover the cost of Main RPL Fire System upgrades.

## RECOMMENDED BY

The Managing Director recommends approval.

Drafted by: Finance Dir  
Referred by: Finance Dir  
Introduced on: September 13, 2021  
Advertised on:

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_-2021**  
**AN ORDINANCE**  
**AMENDING THE BILL NO. - THE 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET**  
**ORDINANCE - TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN EXPENDITURE**  
**ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE COST OF FIRE SYSTEM UPGRADES AT THE LIBRARY**  
**MAIN BLDG**

**The Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:**

**Section One:** The 2021 Capital Improvement Fund Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by changing the ordinance to provide \$248,578 in funding needed to cover the cost of fire system upgrades at the Main Library building.

**Section Two:** The payments will be paid from the Capital Fund – PW Public Property budget line item (34-07-74-4801-000) [Proj #34-07-74-152] in the amount of \$248,578 and will be funded by a decrease to the PW – Contracted Services budget line item (34-07-00-4216-000) in the amount of \$248,578.

**Section Three:** This Ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after adoption pursuant to Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Sent to Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Over-ridden by Council:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# AGENDA MEMO

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**TO:**

City Council

**FROM:**

Fire Chief William Stoudt Jr.

**PREPARED BY:**

Fire Chief William Stoudt Jr.

**MEETING DATE:**

September 13, 2021

**AGENDA MEMO DATE:**

September 8, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Authorize the Transfer of Funds for purchase of EMS equipment as a result of the Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

## RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Chief requests the approval of the transfer of funds totaling \$1,033,992.26 within the Agency Fund Budget.

\$1,033,992.26 from Line 31-09-35-3554 to Line 31-09-35-4216

## BACKGROUND

The Department was the recipient of a Regional Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant totaling \$983,672.73 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for EMS Equipment. These funds will be received electronically into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund Budget. In addition, the 10% matching portion required of the other Agencies totaling \$50,319.53 will be billed to the participating municipalities and then deposited into the Grants and Gifts line of the Agency Fund. As these funds are received they will then need to be transferred to the expense line to move forward with the purchase of the equipment.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

None to the overall Department budget as the transferred amount is from within the Agency Fund Budget. The grant is reimbursable with drawdowns occurring as invoices are received.

#### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

None

#### RECOMMENDED BY

The Fire Chief recommends approval.

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION

Approval of the transfer of the funds as listed.

Drafted by:	Fire Chief and Fire Administrative Officer
Sponsored/Referred by:	Fire Chief
Introduced on:	September 13, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AMENDING THE BILL NO. - THE 2021 AGENCY FUND BUDGET ORDINANCE -  
TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE AGENCY FUND BUDGET TO  
PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO PURCHASE EMS EQUIPMENT FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT'S AMBULANCES FOR WHICH A GRANT WAS RECEIVED FROM  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).**

**The Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:**

**Section One:** The 2021 Agency Fund Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by changing the ordinance to provide the funds needed for the purchase of EMS equipment for which the department was the recipient of a Regional AFG grant. The funds will be paid by a reallocation of funds within the Agency Fund Budget.

**Section Two:** The purchase of this equipment will be paid from the Agency Fund Contracted Services, Line Item (31-09-35-4216). The funds being transferred will result in an increase of \$1,033,992.26 to the Contracted Services Line Item (31-09-35-4216) and a decrease of \$1,033,992.26 to the Agency Fund Grants and Gifts Line Item (31-09-35-3554).

**Section Three:** This Ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after adoption pursuant to Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Sent to Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by City Solicitor's Office  
Sponsored by/Referred by Managing Director  
Introduced on September 13, 2021

**BILL N O. \_\_\_\_\_ 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF READING SETTING FORTH THE  
SALARY OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Upon evaluation of the Mayor of Reading, the base salary of the Deputy Chief of Police, Javier Ortiz, shall increase to ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS (\$101,757.04) per annum.

**SECTION 2.** Deputy Chief Ortiz shall receive all of the benefits, excluding overtime, granted under the July 29, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Reading and the FOP and June 1, 2021 Agreement by and between the City of Reading and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9. To the extent that the Collective Bargaining Agreement or the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding are amended or superseded, Deputy Chief Ortiz shall receive any increase to the benefits, excluding overtime, provided for therein.

**SECTION 3.** The salary and benefits set forth in Sections 1 and 2 shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020, the effective date of the July 29, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Reading and the FOP.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its Adoption in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by

Deputy City Clerk  
Council Nominations and Appointments Committee

## **R E S O L U T I O N N O. \_\_\_\_-2021**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

That Jerry Jones is appointed to the Blighted Property Review Committee  
with a term ending September 13, 2025.

Adopted by Council September 13, 2021

---

President of Council

Attest:

---

Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by  
Introduced on  
Advertised on

City Clerk  
City Council  
September 13, 2021  
N/A

## ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_-2021

### APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF THE BERKS COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY FOR THE SANTANDER ARENA AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**WHEREAS,** After 40+ years of planning, community meetings and legal challenges, the Convention Center Authority was created by the City of Reading and the County of Berks to oversee the operation of the convention center on June 20, 1996; and

**WHEREAS,** The convention center is a 7,160-seat multi-purpose arena which opened in September 2001 on the former site of the Astor Theater; one of several grand movie and theater palaces built in Reading in the early 20th century. Closed in 1975, the theater sat vacant for over two decades. In 1998, the Astor was demolished to make room for the Santander Arena. Early in construction, steps were taken to retain mementos of the Astor, including its ornate Art Deco chandelier and gates. These are on display and in use inside the arena corridors, allowing insight into the ambience of the former movie house; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2000 the Convention Center Authority purchased the Rajah Theatre, located on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street that operated as a dual purpose public theatre and temple for the masons in the city of Reading since 1922 and the Authority performed a \$7M renovation to the theatre with special care to retain the gorgeous original features in this historic building to create the Performing Arts Center; and

**WHEREAS,** The Convention Center Authority has worked diligently over the past 20 years to build and manage facilities that attract audiences from across the region making these facilities a critical economic driver for Reading and Berks County; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant loss of revenue to the Convention Center Authority, which has limited its ability to maintain its infrastructure and services, among other things.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing “WHEREAS” recitals are hereby ratified as being true and correct and incorporated herein.

**Section 2.** The City of Reading recognizes that the Santander Convention Center and Performing Arts Center are major local economic drivers that needs to remain in Reading and receive monies to fund its lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and use those funds for its infrastructure and facilities to continue to attract audiences from across the region.

**Section 3.** The City of Reading recognizes that COVID-19 shuttered the doors of these facilities for a year and a half, which has had a devastating effect on the revenue received and coincidentally the ability of the Convention Center Authority to make the required improvements to these facilities.

**Section 4.** The City of Reading hereby appropriates \$3,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Convention Center Authority for the Santander Arena and the Performing Arts Center.

**Section 5:** This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption in accordance with 219 and 221 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Reading.

ENACTED \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by  
Introduced on  
Advertised on

City Clerk  
City Council  
September 13, 2021  
N/A

## ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_-2021

### APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF THE BERKS COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY FOR THE SANTANDER ARENA AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**WHEREAS,** After 40+ years of planning, community meetings and legal challenges, the Convention Center Authority was created by the City of Reading and the County of Berks to oversee the operation of the convention center on June 20, 1996; and

**WHEREAS,** The convention center is a 7,160-seat multi-purpose arena which opened in September 2001 on the former site of the Astor Theater; one of several grand movie and theater palaces built in Reading in the early 20th century. Closed in 1975, the theater sat vacant for over two decades. In 1998, the Astor was demolished to make room for the Santander Arena. Early in construction, steps were taken to retain mementos of the Astor, including its ornate Art Deco chandelier and gates. These are on display and in use inside the arena corridors, allowing insight into the ambience of the former movie house; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2000 the Convention Center Authority purchased the Rajah Theatre, located on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street that operated as a dual purpose public theatre and temple for the masons in the city of Reading since 1922 and the Authority performed a \$7M renovation to the theatre with special care to retain the gorgeous original features in this historic building to create the Performing Arts Center; and

**WHEREAS,** The Convention Center Authority has worked diligently over the past 20 years to build and manage facilities that attract audiences from across the region making these facilities a critical economic driver for Reading and Berks County; and



**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant loss of revenue to the Convention Center Authority, which has limited its ability to maintain its infrastructure and services, among other things.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing “WHEREAS” recitals are hereby ratified as being true and correct and incorporated herein.

**Section 2.** The City of Reading recognizes that the Santander Convention Center and Performing Arts Center are major local economic drivers that needs to remain in Reading and receive monies to fund its lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and use those funds for its infrastructure and facilities to continue to attract audiences from across the region.

**Section 3.** The City of Reading recognizes that COVID-19 shuttered the doors of these facilities for a year and a half, which has had a devastating effect on the revenue received and coincidentally the ability of the Convention Center Authority to make the required improvements to these facilities.

**Section 4.** The City of Reading hereby appropriates \$3,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Convention Center Authority for the Santander Arena and the Performing Arts Center.

**Section 5.** The Appropriation will be made from the ARP Fund Contracted Services Line [GL#47-06-13-4216]. This will result in an increase of \$3,000,000 to the Contracted Services line item 47-06-13-4216 and an increase of \$3,000,000 to the 47-00-00-3554 Grants and Gifts line.

**Section 6:** This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption in accordance with 219 and 221 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Reading.

ENACTED \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

---

President of Council



# AGENDA MEMO

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Jamar Kelly, Finance Director  
**PREPARED BY:** Jamar Kelly  
**MEETING DATE:** September 13, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** September 7, 2021  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** AMEND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND 2021 BUDGET TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE COST OF 3<sup>rd</sup> and SPRUCE REC CTR GYM HVAC REPLACEMENT

### RECOMMENDATION

The Managing Director recommends the above changes in the Capital Fund budget, reflecting the funds needed to cover the cost of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Rec Ctr HVAC Replacement.

### BACKGROUND

The 2020 CIP included funding for 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce HVAC Replacement, that project is still in the design phase. With excessive temperatures this summer the rec center was left with no A/C in the gym and more kids heading there with the pool closed. An emergency purchase was declared to move this particular phase forward immediately. A transfer is needed to settle the bill for the work completed. The vendor chosen is approved through COSTARS, contract #008-302.

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

The authorization of the budget transfer will not impact the budget, since funds are being reallocated from an existing budgeted line item no longer needed per analysis of current spending trends.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

None

### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Council to take action to approve an ordinance for the authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$46425 to cover the cost of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Gym HVAC.

RECOMMENDED BY

The Managing Director recommends approval.

Drafted by:	Finance Dir
Sponsored/Referred by:	Finance Dir
Introduced on:	September 13, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AMENDING THE BILL NO. - THE 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET  
ORDINANCE - TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN EXPENDITURE  
ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE COST OF 3<sup>rd</sup> & SPRUCE GYM HVAC**

**The Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:**

**Section One:** The 2021 Capital Improvement Fund Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by changing the ordinance to provide \$46,425.00 in funding needed to cover the cost of 3<sup>RD</sup> & SPRUCE GYM HVAC.

**Section Two:** The payments will be paid from the Capital Fund – PW Public Property budget line item (34-07-74-4801-000) [Proj #34-07-74-123] in the amount of \$46,425.00. It will be funded by an increase of \$46,425.00 to GL #34-07-74-4801 Proj 34-07-74-123 and corresponding decrease to the PW – Contracted Services budget line item (34-07-00-4216-000) in the amount of \$46,425.00.

**Section Three:** This Ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after adoption pursuant to Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Sent to Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by City Solicitor's Office  
Sponsored by/Referred by Managing Director  
Introduced on September 13, 2021

**BILL N O. \_\_\_\_\_ 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF READING SETTING FORTH THE  
SALARY OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Upon evaluation of the Mayor of Reading, the base salary of the Deputy Chief of Police, Javier Ortiz, shall increase to ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS (\$101,757.04) per annum.

**SECTION 2.** Deputy Chief Ortiz shall receive all of the benefits, excluding overtime, granted under the July 29, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Reading and the FOP and June 1, 2021 Agreement by and between the City of Reading and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9. To the extent that the Collective Bargaining Agreement or the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding are amended or superseded, Deputy Chief Ortiz shall receive any increase to the benefits, excluding overtime, provided for therein.

**SECTION 3.** The salary and benefits set forth in Sections 1 and 2 shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020, the effective date of the July 29, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Reading and the FOP.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its Adoption in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by

Deputy City Clerk  
Council Nominations and Appointments Committee

## **R E S O L U T I O N NO. \_\_\_\_-2021**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

That Jerry Jones is appointed to the Blighted Property Review Committee  
with a term ending September 13, 2025.

Adopted by Council September 13, 2021

---

President of Council

Attest:

---

Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk

Drafted by

Deputy City Clerk

## **R E S O L U T I O N N O. \_\_\_\_-2021**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

That Rebecca Noviello is appointed to the Environmental Advisory  
Council with a term ending September 13, 2024.

Adopted by Council September 13, 2021

---

President of Council

Attest:

---

Linda A. Kelleher